



# Greater Yellowstone Coalition

P.O. Box 1874 • Bozeman, Montana 59771 • (406) 586-1593 • fax (406) 556-2839 • gyc@greateryellowstone.org

1983 - 2008

*Celebrating 25 Years  
of Conservation Success*

February 25, 2008

The Honorable Max Baucus  
United States Senate  
511 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Baucus:

On behalf of the Greater Yellowstone Coalition, I am writing to express our support for the City of Bozeman's request for federal assistance to help pay for much-needed upgrades to the city's wastewater treatment plant. The upgrades to the wastewater treatment plant are projected to cost \$90 million over the next ten years.

The Greater Yellowstone Coalition is a non-profit conservation group of 20,000 members and supporters committed to protecting the lands, waters and wildlife of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem now and for future generations. We have roughly 400 members who live within Bozeman city limits and who would benefit from the upgrades to the wastewater treatment plant.

The principal reason GYC supports upgrading the wastewater treatment plant is because it would result in significantly cleaner wastewater being discharged into the East Gallatin River. Currently, the East Gallatin River suffers from high levels of nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus. Overloading of nutrients results in algae blooms during summer and decreased dissolved oxygen levels, which harms trout and other coldwater fish. According to information provided to us from Bozeman City Engineer Rick Hixson, the upgrades to the wastewater treatment plant would reduce discharges of both these nutrients by 75 percent.

From a financial need perspective, Bozeman residents already pay the highest water and sewer rates of any city in Montana. Bozeman also has some of the highest housing costs in the state. It is simply not reasonable to expect Bozeman residents to bear the entire cost of the upgrades to the wastewater treatment plant without receiving some federal assistance. From what we understand, the city of Missoula recently received \$5 million in federal assistance to upgrade its wastewater treatment plant. If federal assistance is appropriate for Missoula, it would seem appropriate for Bozeman.

Thank you again for all you do to make Montana the best place to live in America. Please call me at (406) 556-2823 if there is anything we can do to be of further assistance.

*Greater Yellowstone Coalition is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All contributions are tax-deductible.*

Idaho Falls Office • 162 North Woodruff • Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401 • (208) 522-7927 • fax (208) 522-1048

Cody Office • 1285 Sheridan Ave., Ste. 215 • Cody, Wyoming 82414 • (307) 527-6233 • fax (307) 527-6290

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[www.greateryellowstone.org](http://www.greateryellowstone.org)

EXHIBIT 8  
DATE Jan 15, 09  
HB 11

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Scott Bosse".

Scott Bosse  
Rivers Conservation Coordinator

Cc:  
Rick Hixson, Bozeman City Engineer  
Chris Kukulski, Bozeman City Manager



**Laura Ziemer**

*Director, Montana Water Project*

March 5, 2008

The Honorable Max Baucus  
United States Senate  
511 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Baucus,

On behalf of Trout Unlimited, I would like to provide our support for the City of Bozeman's plans to seek direct federal assistance for the reconstruction of the city's wastewater treatment plant. We understand that the first phase of this reconstruction is needed in order to keep the existing facility operational and the upgrade could reduce the discharge of harmful nutrients into the East Gallatin River by up to 75 percent. The city has done an exemplary job in operating and maintaining the existing 36-year old plant, but the time has come for it to be rejuvenated.

As the city's background materials show, this project is a very high local, regional and state priority. While new development and growth are paying their fair share of this project through impact fees, the existing city residents, who already pay the highest sewer rates in the state, are going to see their bills increase. It is important to make sure that this expensive project does not overwhelm them.

We are all struggling during these changing economic times to responsibly manage our resources while maintaining affordability in a changing regulatory environment. We concur that because of this project's cost and impact on other city utility operations, it only becomes affordable with a combination of local, state and federal resources. We also strongly support the city's decision to work with the Montana Congressional Delegation to seek assistance.

On behalf of all the citizens in the greater Bozeman area, we thank you for your past support and consideration for this year's request.

Respectfully,

Laura Ziemer

Cc:  
Rick Hixson, Bozeman City Engineer  
Chris Kukulski, Bozeman City Manager

*Trout Unlimited: America's Leading Coldwater Fisheries Conservation Organization*  
321 East Main Street, Suite 411, Bozeman, MT 59715  
(406) 522-7291 ext. 103 • Fax: (406) 522-7695 • email: [lziemer@tu.org](mailto:lziemer@tu.org) • [www.tu.org](http://www.tu.org)



**Laura Ziemer**

*Director, Montana Water Project*

March 5, 2008

The Honorable Dennis Rehberg  
United States House of Representatives  
516 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515-2601

Dear Representative Rehberg,

On behalf of Trout Unlimited, I would like to provide our support for the City of Bozeman's plans to seek direct federal assistance for the reconstruction of the city's wastewater treatment plant. We understand that the first phase of this reconstruction is needed in order to keep the existing facility operational and the upgrade could reduce the discharge of harmful nutrients into the East Gallatin River by up to 75 percent. The city has done an exemplary job in operating and maintaining the existing 36-year old plant, but the time has come for it to be rejuvenated.

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**Laura Ziemer**

*Director, Montana Water Project*

March 5, 2008

The Honorable Jon Tester  
United States Senate  
Room 204 Russell Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Tester,

On behalf of Trout Unlimited, I would like to provide our support for the City of Bozeman's plans to seek direct federal assistance for the reconstruction of the city's wastewater treatment plant. We understand that the first phase of this reconstruction is needed in order to keep the existing facility operational and the upgrade could reduce the discharge of harmful nutrients into the East Gallatin River by up to 75 percent. The city has done an exemplary job in operating and maintaining the existing 36-year old plant, but the time has come for it to be rejuvenated.

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Laura Ziemer

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Rick Hixson, Bozeman City Engineer  
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